

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 01677 041348Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W

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R 041245Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9607

INFO OAU CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PORG, OAU

SUBJECT: OPENING OF 14TH OAU SUMMIT-I

REF: LIBREVILL 1670

SUMMARY: SUMMIT OPENED JULY 2 WITH MODERATE SPEECHES BY BONGO, HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, NIMEIRI AND STEVENS, APPEAL FOR AID FROM DJIBOUTI DELEGATION, REPORT BY OUTGOING PRESIDENT RAMGOOLAM, AND ADDRESS BY UNSYG WALDHEIM. NIMEIRI USED HIS SPEECH AS VEHICLE FOR ATTACK ON SOVIETS. INITIAL SESSION SAW 22 CHIEFS OF STATE PRESENT, AND KAUNDA ARRIVED FOLLOWING MORNING. END SUMMARY.

1. FOURTEENTH OAU SUMMIT FORMALLY CONVENED JULY 2 WITH 22 CHIEFS OF STATE IN ATTENDANCE. OPENING WAS DELAYED SLIGHTLY BY LATE ARRIVAL OF ALGERIA'S BOUMEDIENNE, AND WAS MADE MORE COLORFUL BY PRESENCE AMIN IN MILITARY UNIFORM WITH FULL CHEST OF MEDALS.

2. OPENING CEREMONIES INCLUDED SPEECHES BY BONGO AS

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PAGE 02 LIBREV 01677 041348Z

HOST AND REPLIES FROM HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY OF IVORY COAST, NIMEIRI OF SUDAN, AND STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE. AHMED DINI, PRESIDENT OF DJIBOUTI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND HEAD OF DELEGATION FROM 49 TH MEMBER STATE, PRESENTED GLOOMY CATALOG OF HIS COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND APPEALED FOR URGENT OAU AID. MAURITIUS PM RAMGOOLAM, OUTGOING OAU PRESIDENT, PRESENTED BRIEF AND ANODYNE REPORT ON

HIS STEWARDSHIP, AND US SYG WASLDHEIM CONTRIBUTED FINAL ADDRESS ON WORLD AND AFRICAN PROBLEMS WITH WHICH UN CURRENTLY SEIZED.

3. WITH EXCEPTION OF NIMEIRI, ORATORS STUCK LARGELY TO GENERAL THEMES OF UNITY, PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES, DIALOGUE, AND NEED FOR DETENTE AMONG COMPETING SYSTEMS AND IDEOLOGIES. LANUGAE WAS UNIFORMLY MODERATE, WITH BONGO CALLING FOR "AFRICAN PALAVER" AND URGING DELEGATES TO "WASH DIRTY LINEN WITHIN THE FAMILY" AND HOUPHOUET PLACING EMPHASIS ON HIS FAVORIT THEME OF "BROTHERLY DIALOGUE." LATTER WON APPLAUSE FOR HIS APPEAL TO CONTENDING LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN ZIMBABWE TO END "FRATRICIDAL STRUGGLE" AND UNIFY IN INTEREST OF SPEEDING PROGRESS OF TERRITORY TOWARD INDEPENDENCE.

4. ONLY DIRECT REFERENCE TO WESTERN EFFORTS IN NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE IN SPEECHES BY CHIEFS OF STATE CAME FROM HOUPHOUET, WHO APPEALED TO WESTERN POWERS TO SPEED MAJORITY RULE IN LATTER TERRITORY AND URGED HIS COLLEAGUES TO RECOGNIZE IMPORTANCE OF WESTERN INITIATIVES IN NAMIBIA. THESE ISSUES ALSO MENTIONED BY WALDHEIM, WHO EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT UK HAD RESUMED ITS EFFORTS TO REACH NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN ZIMBABWE. WITH REGARD TO NAIMBIA, UN SYG SAID HE HAD BEEN FULLY INFORMED BY WESTERN FIVE, THAT MANY DETAILS REMAINED TO BE WORKED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LIBREV 01677 041348Z

OUT (PARTICULARLY CONCERNING UN ROLE), AND THAT HE WOULD BE CONSLUTING FURTHER DURING HIS LIBREVILLE STAY WITH SWAPO AND OTHER INTERESTED AFRICAN PARTIES.

5. MOST INTERESTING SPEECH WAS DELIVERED BY NIMEIR, WHO CNCENTRATED ON WHAT HE CALLED NEED FOR TRUE NON-ALIGNMENT WHICH , HE SAID, COULC NOT EXIST WHEN MEMBER STTES SIGNED DEFENSE PACTS WITH OUTSIDE POWERS. NIMEIRI STATED THAT EXTERNAL FORCES WERE PROFITING FROM AFRICA'S INTERNAL DIVISIONS, WHICH WERE RETURNING CONTINENT TO PRE-1963 SPLIT AND PERMITTING GREAT POWERS TO PLAY WITH AFRICAN STATES. IN THIS CONTEXT, NIMEIRI RESERVED HIS SHARPEST WORDS FOR " SOCIALIST IMPERIALISM" SCORING SOVIETS FOR THEIR ROLES IN SUDAN, SOURTHER AFRICA, AND CONTINENT ON THE WHOLE. AFRICA, HE SAID, DOES NOT WANT TO REPLACE ONE IMPOREIALISM WITH ANOTHER, AND MUST THEREFORE STAND UNITED AGAINST WHAT HE TERMED THIS NEW SOCIALIST IMPERIALIST MENANCE.

6. NIMEIRI ALSO MADE STRONG APPEAL TO STRENGTHEN OAU AND ITS CHARGER AND TO LOOK INTO ORFANIZATION'S STRUCTRUAL WEAKNESSES. WHILE HE MADE NO MENTION IN HIS SPEECH

OF MOVING OAU HEADQUARTERS FROM ADDIS ABABA, HE HAS TOLD  
SEVERAL JOURNALISTS DURING PRIVATE INTERVIEWS THAT HE  
INTENDS TO RAISE THIS ISSUE IN COURSE OF SUMMIT DEBATES.

7. ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA ARRIVED LIBREVILLE MORNING  
JULY 3, BRINGING TOTAL OF HEADS OF STATE PRESENT FOR  
SUMMIT TO 23. GABON GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT ATTENDEES  
ALSO INCLUDE FIVE PRIME MINISTERS, ONE VICE-PRESIDENT,  
AND ONE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT (DJIBOUTI), AND  
ADDED CLAIM THAT THIS CONSTITUTES HIGHEST OVERALL LEVEL  
OF REPRESENTATION SINCE 1972 SUMMIT. STEIGMAN

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## Message Attributes

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